

FISCAL NOTE

SB 783 - HB 1446

March 10, 1997

SUMMARY OF BILL: (1) Requires that local education agencies (LEAs) employ one school counselor for every 500 students in ADM in grades K-6, and one school counselor for every 350 students in ADM in grades 7-12; (2) Requires that LEAs must use funds provided in the BEP for a school counseling program for such program or must notify the Department of Education of its election not to do so and the alternative arrangement used to meet the counseling needs of its students. Present law requires LEAs to employ one school counselor for every 500 students in average daily attendance in grades one and two.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures - \$24 Million/Permissive

Estimate is based on the following:

1. The 1995-96 average daily membership (ADM) in grades K-12 was 877,275.
2. If LEAs employ one school counselor per 500 students in grades K-6 and one school counselor per 350 students in grades 7-12, then 877,275 ADM will require 2,089 school counselors.
3. For the 1995-96 school year, LEAs employed 807 elementary guidance counselors and 720 elementary/secondary guidance counselors.
4. Using this formula, the bill will require the employment of an additional 562 counselors.
5. Using an average instructional salary of \$34,412 plus benefits of 25%, this will require a total increase in local government expenditures of \$24,174,430.

The BEP formula currently contains a component that produces funding for one counselor for every 500 ADM in grades K-6 and one counselor for every 350 ADM in grades 7-12. However, there is no requirement that LEAs use funds generated in this area to hire counselors.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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